(f) if so, the facts thereof ; and

(g) the loss of revenue suffered by Railways as a result thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : (a)

	1996-97	April 1997 (Till Oct.'97
(i)Number of Complimentary Card Passes issued	42086	Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.
(ii)Number of Complimentary Check Passes issued	6168	2000

(b) Complimentary Card Passes are issued to various categories like former Members of Parliament, Freedom Fighters, former Railway Ministers, Gallantry Awardees (Army and Police), Arjuna Awardees etc. as per schemes announced from time to time and to individuals and organisations as per guidelines.

(c) and (d) Retired Board Members who were entitled for three sets of Post-retirement Complimentary Passes with their eligible family members were made eligible for travel without any ceiling on the number of journeys with the issue of Platinum Pass with further facility of taking a companion when unaccompanied by eligible family members. These facilities have been granted in token of appreciation of the contribution made by the retired Board Members to Indian Railways.

(e) Yes, Sir.

(f) The decision regarding issue of Platinum Passes to serving and retired Board Members was taken on 23.04.97 and the orders were issued on 30.04.97.

(g) Since passes are complimentary in nature the cost thereof is not computed.

Modernisation and construction of New Airports

415. SHRI NAVEEN PATNAIK :
SHRI ANAND RATNA MAURYA :
DR. RAMVILAS VEDANTI :
SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA :
SHRI SOHANVEER SINGH :
SHRI RANJIB BISWAL :
SHRI SARAT PATTANAYAK :
SHRI A.G.S. RAM BABU :
SHRI P.C. THOMAS :
SHRI SANDIPAN THORAT :

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) the progress of work of modernisation and construction of National and International Airports in the country, Airport-wise;

(b) the amount spent on these projects, project-wise;

(c) the expected time of the completion of the work;

(d) whether the Government propose to invite foreign capital in the construction of new airports; and

(e) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATRAJAN) : (a) to (e) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

United Nations Development Programme Project

416. SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDINO WAISI : Will the Minister of NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) whether United Nations Development Programme and Global Environment Facility Hilly Hydro Project was started in 1994;

(b) if so, the details indicating the works covered under the project so far, State-wise;

(c) whether the project has not yielded the desired results;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the steps being taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (CAPT. JAI NARAYAN PRASAD NISHAD) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. A project on 'Optimising Development of Small Hydro Resources in the Hilly Regions of India was started in late 1994. The project has a grant element of US $ 7.5 million from the Global Environment Facility and a counterpart funding component of Rs. 22.48 crores from the Government of India and the State Government resources. The project envisages preparation of a Master Plan, setting up of 20 demonstration project, 100 water mills and training. 13 States are included in the project zone for these activities. Geological, seismological, hydrological, etc. studies have been completed in all the States. Sites for demonstration project execution have been identified and 10 water mills have been installed.

(c) to (e) The project is in the middle of its execution. Its duration is upto December, 1999. The project is expected to yield the desired results.